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NANTYGLO & BLAINA
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE
YEAR 1949

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1950



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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1949

*To the Chairman and Members
of the Nantyglo and Blaina Urban District Council.*

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour of submitting my report for the year 1949.

Section A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area of District	...	...	...	3,862 Acres
Estimate of Population, 1921	...	...	...	16,453
" " 1931	...	...	...	13,190
" " 1941	...	...	...	12,440
" " 1945	...	...	...	11,410
" " 1946	...	...	...	11,540
" " 1947	...	...	...	11,460
" " 1948	...	...	...	11,410
" " 1949	...	...	...	11,490
Number of Inhabited Houses	...	...	...	3,275
Rateable Value of the District	...	...	...	£32,824
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	£115

VITAL STATISTICS.

Number of Births	...	...	...	205
Legitimate Births	...	Boys 108 ;	Girls 93	
Illegitimate Births	...	Boys nil ;	Girls 4	
Birth Rate per 1,000 of Population	...	...	...	17·9
" " " (Mon. County)	...	...	...	18·2
" " " (England and Wales)	...	...	...	16·7
Number of Still Births	Boys 10 ;	Girls 2	...	12
Still Birth per 1,000 of Population	...	...	...	1·04
" " " (Mon. County)	...	...	...	·58
" " " (England and Wales)	...	...	...	·39
Number of Deaths.	Males 91 ;	Females 65	...	156
Death Rate per 1,000 of Population	...	...	...	13·5
" " " (Mon. County)	...	...	...	12·1
" " " (England and Wales)	...	...	...	11·7

INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE.

	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	1940
Number of Deaths (under 1 year)	...	12	16	9	12	16	9	11	19	11
Number of Births	...	205	240	225	203	217	219	223	204	189
Mortality Rate	...	58.5	66.6	40.0	59.1	73.7	41.1	49.3	93.1	58.2

Particulars of Deaths of Children under 1 year.

Under 1 week	5	1—3 months	3	}		
1—2 weeks	...	...	2	3—6 months ...	...	1
2—3 weeks	...	...	...	6—9 months ...	...	...	
3—4 weeks	...	...	1	9—12 months...	...	...	
			—			—			
			8			4			
							Total under 1 year	...	12

Total Number of Births ... 205 Total Number of Deaths ... 12

Mortality Rate per 1,000 Births ... 58.5

1949. Analysis of Total Cases of Infectious Diseases according to Age Groups.													Deaths from Infectious Cases according to Age Groups.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																													
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Deaths from All Causes during the year 1949.

DISEASE	Under 1 yr.	1—2 years	2—3 years	3—4 years	4—5 years	5—10 years	10—15 years	15—20 years	20—35 years	35—45 years	45—65 years	65 and over	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	1	1	...	3	1	4	1	5
Other forms of Tuberculosis	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Syphilitic Diseases
Influenza	2	2	...	2
Cancer	1	3	6	5	6	9	15
Diabetes
Inter-Cranial and Vascular Lesions	1	2	4	4	5	6	11
Heart Disease	1	...	...	...	2	20	40	30	33	63
Other Circulatory Diseases	1	...	2	...	...	4	4	...	4
Bronchitis	3	4	8	2	10
Pneumonia	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	6	2	8
Other Respiratory Diseases	5	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	2	...	2
Duodenal Ulcer	1	...	2	...	2
Diarrhoea
Appendicitis	1	...	...	1	...	1
Other Digestive Diseases	2	2	...	2
Nephritis	2	5	3	4	7
Congenital Diseases
Premature Birth	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	3
Violent Causes	1	...	2	...	3	...	3
All other Causes	4	...	...	...	1	1	3	...	5	3	...	...	13	4	17
Total	12	...	1	...	1	2	4	1	11	13	44	67	91	65	156

Analysis of Infectious Diseases according to Wards and Districts.

DISEASE	WARDS			TOTAL	DISTRICTS		TOTAL
	North	Central	South		Nantyglo	Blaina	
Scarlet Fever ...	7	9	12	28	7	21	28
Measles ...	44	98	44	186	44	142	186
Whooping Cough ...	2	1	1	4	2	2	4
Pneumonia ...	2	...	3	5	2	3	5
Erysipelas ...	...	1	...	1	...	1	1
Totals ...	54	109	60	224	54	169	224
Tuberculosis : Pulmonary ...	1	4	2	7	2	5	7
Non-Pulmonary ...	1	...	...	1	1	...	1
Totals ...	2	4	2	8	3	5	8

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The District is situated at the Northern end of the County of Monmouth, and is bounded on the West by the Ebbw Vale Urban District, on the South by the Abertillery Urban District, and on the North by the Brynmawr Urban District.

Coal Mining is the chief industry.

There are several minor industries, but up to date the numbers employed in these factories are not as great as we were given to expect. The reasons given vary. The BRYNMAWR BOOTMAKERS employ 53 males and 26 females. They have the capacity for much further expansion, but I understand the orders are not sufficient to warrant this.

In the Barley Field Factories, COOPER & Co., who are makers of felts, mops, gaskets, etc., etc., employ 10 males but hope to increase to 200. JOHN WEBB & Co., who are brass founders, employ 12 males, but this number will increase to 200. The last two firms have not been able to expand through lack of machinery; this they have been unable to purchase because of the dollar shortage.

LUXTON'S GLOVES employ 1 male and 26 females; POWLEY PRODUCTS 18 males and 2 females; POOL LORRIMER-IABBENFR at present employ 4 males who are in training; they hope to increase their number to approximately 50.

The building of the ENFIELD RUBBER FACTORY is proceeding according to plan and is even in advance of schedule. It is unlikely that it will be opened before 1951. At the end of December, 1949, there were 183 males and 168 females unemployed in the district.

Section B.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY.

The Public Health Staff engaged by the Council are myself as Medical Officer of Health (part time) and a whole time Sanitary Inspector,

The Sanitary Inspector holds the Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute, and the Meat and Foods Certificate. An Assistant Sanitary Inspector was appointed this year. In addition we have a Rodent Operative on the Staff.

One-half of the salaries of the Medical Officer of Health and Sanitary Inspectors' is paid by the County Council.

Facilities are provided for the examination of pathological and bacteriological specimens of water, milk and foodstuff by the Medical Research Council.

Diphtheria Antitoxin is supplied by the Council and is kept by me for the use of the Medical Practitioners who require it. Probably as a result of immunisation there has been no demand for this during this year.

The Ambulance facilities are now provided under the National Health Scheme.

There are two Maternity and Child Welfare Centres, one at Blaina and one at Nantyglo.

The nearest clinic for Venereal Diseases is at the Royal Gwent Hospital, Newport.

A Tuberculosis Clinic is held at the Nantyglo & Blaina Hospital, on Tuesday of each week.

NURSING IN THE HOME.

There are three midwives practising in the area, appointed by the County Council.

A Home-help Service is administered by the County Authority.

The Home Nursing Service at Blaina and Nantyglo is now under the County.

The Vaccination and Immunisation is now done by the Medical Practitioner or at the Child Welfare Clinic.

HOSPITAL.

There is one General Hospital in the district, under the administration of the Regional Hospital Board, with a capacity of 33 beds—18 males, 8 females and 6 children.

In addition there is a Maternity Wing of the Hospital with accommodation for 8 mothers and babies.

The Hospital is equipped with X-Ray, Ultra Violet Ray, and other electrical appliances,

There is a Maternity Hospital at Ty-Bryn, Tredegar.

Section C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY.

The water supply in this area is still far from satisfactory especially in many parts of Nantyglo and the North end of Blaina.

The water has to be turned off in the lower part of the area for a portion of each day to allow a supply to the upper part of the district. Even so many of the housewives have to resort to having their weekly washing day on a Sunday as the demand is such on Monday, which is the accepted washing day, that their supply is not sufficient.

In addition to the poor supply of water, the intermittent supply, and the reduced rate of flow of the water results in a greater deposit of solid matter which causes a narrowing of the available space in the pipes.

The main pipes where supply is continuous have been noticed to be clean whereas in the pipes where the supply is being constantly turned off much corrosion is seen. Even when we get a satisfactory supply of water the pipes to the individual houses will need to be renewed. During my 21 years as Medical Officer of Health the supply of water particularly to the North end has been a constant source of trouble.

Numerous efforts have been made to counteract the deficiency.

Storage tanks were built at the North end of the district then a new main was laid from Winchestown over Porter's Road to the hospital.

Very little if any benefit resulted from these efforts.

Are the Council satisfied that sufficient water is coming in to our district? Are the existing reservoirs sufficient to meet the increasing demands resulting from the large number of houses built in Ebbw Vale before and since the war and for the number of houses built since the war at Nantyglo and Blaina?

The number of houses supplied from public water mains is 3,260.

Approximate population supplied from public mains is 11,430.

Nineteen samples have been taken during the year from the main supply, eighteen for bacteriological examination and one for chemical analysis. Fifteen of these proved satisfactory bacteriologically, and one satisfactory chemically.

Further to this seven samples for bacteriological examination were taken from outcrop springs in the district, six proved unsatisfactory and one satisfactory.

DRAINAGE-SEWERAGE.

Drainage-Sewerage is on the water carriage scheme.

The subsidiary sewers are connected up with the Western Valley (Mon.) Main Trunk Sewer, which discharges into the sea at low water, west of the mouth of the Usk.

At Brynteg, Blaina a separate surface water drain was constructed.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

There are still many houses in the area which have not separate closet accommodation.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Householders in the area despite repeated warning still deposit their refuse on open spaces near their homes, as stated in my previous report, this will not be remedied until there is more co-operation between all concerned and each householder has a suitable covered dustbin for the storage of domestic refuse prior to collection.

SHOPS ACT, 1934.

No action has been found necessary during the year under the provision of the Shops Act, 1934, relating to ventilation and temperature of the shops, but one notice in respect of sanitary conveniences was served.

A part-time Shops Inspector officiates in the area.

MARINE STORES.

There are four registered Marine Stores in the district. These are inspected periodically. No rag flock is made or sold in the area.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No action was necessary with a view to abatement of nuisance from smoke.

SWIMMING POOLS.

There are no publicly or privately owned Swimming Baths in the area.

The ponds are still used in spite of the fact that they are dangerous, and have been proved by bacteriological examination to be contaminated and quite unfit to be used as swimming pools.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

Number of Factories on Register December 31st, 1949	12
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Number of Inspections	52
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Written Notices :

(1) Want of cleanliness	2
(2) Insufficient Sanitary Conveniences	1

RODENT CONTROL.

There is a whole-time Rodent Officer employed in the Health Department.

(a) Number of Premises surveyed (including Private and Business)	...	...	900
(b) Number of Premises treated	...	...	115
(c) Number of Sewer Treatments	...	...	2
(d) River Bank treatments	...	...	2

All Culverts, Waterways and Refuse Dumps were kept under observation and treated where necessary.

Section D.

HOUSING.

I.—Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year :

(1) (a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts, 1936)	...	...	...	308
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	308
(2) (a)	Number of dwelling houses included under (1) above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925-1932	...	...	...	Nil
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	Nil
(3)	Number of dwellings found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for habitation	...	...	...	6
(4)	Number of dwelling houses exclusive of those referred to under preceeding sub-head found not be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	30

II.—Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices —

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers.	36
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III.—Action under the Statutory Powers during the year :

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, 11, 12 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936—

(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	Nil
(2)	Number of Closing Orders served	...	2
	Number of Demolition Orders served	...	4
(3)	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice—		
(a)	By Owners	...	Nil
(b)	By Local Authority	...	Nil

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	13
(2)	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice	...	...	13
(a)	By Owners	...	...	13
(b)	By the Authority in default of Owner	...	...	Nil

Section E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Periodic visits are paid to Fried Fish Shops, Bakehouses, Butchers' Shops, Food Preparing Premises and Provision Stores.

During the early part of the year a Clean Food Exhibition was held in conjunction with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

MILK SUPPLY.

MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS, 1949.

These regulations came into operation on the 1st October, 1949, when the control of the production of milk was transferred from Local Authorities to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

- (a) Number registered as distributors ... 13
- (b) Number of dealers licences issued authorising the use of the Special Designation "Pasteurised" ... 10
- (c) Number of Supplementary Licences issued authorising the use of the Special Designation "Pasteurised" 1

The following Milk Samples were taken during the year

	Pasteurised	Raw	Total
No. of Samples taken... ..	36	15	51
Satisfactory	21	9	30
Unsatisfactory	15	6	21

The greater portion of the Milk is brought in from places outside the area.

ICE CREAM (HEAT TREATMENT) REGULATION, 1947.

There are in this area 12 premises registered for the sale or manufacture of Ice Cream.

They are as follows :

(a) Heat Treatment	...	...	1
(b) Complete Cold Mix	...	...	2
(c) Premises where Ice Cream is sold			9
			—
Total	...	...	12

During the year 14 samples of Ice Cream were taken, the results were as follows :

Number of Samples taken					Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4
14	...	...	...	...	10	0	1	3

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

The following is the number of animals slaughtered and the amount of meat and offal condemned at the Government Controlled Abattoir, Brynmawr

	Cattle excluding cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number Killed ...	1808	870	671	18300	66
Number Inspected ...	1808	870	671	18300	66
All diseases except tuberculosis whole carcasses condemned ...	2	8	1	19	2
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned ...	497	497	—	1570	10
% of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	27·6 %	58·04 %	·148 %	8·68 %	18·2 %
Tuberculosis only, whole carcasses condemned ...	3	20	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	224	348	—	—	—
% of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ...	12·5 %	42·2 %	—	—	—

Other foods condemned include Meats, Fish, Vegetables, Soups, Milk, Fruit (tinned)—Total, 148 tins.

In conclusion,—Once again I wish to thank the members of the Council, your Clerk (Mr. G. R. Jenkins), your Sanitary Inspector, your Financial Officer, and other members of the Council Staff for their unfailing courtesy and co-operation throughout the year.

I am, your obedient servant,

F. M. WALLEN GUNN,

Medical Officer of Health.





